

# **BROCKTON, MASS.**

**BROCKTON RISE Youth Opportunity Center**  
2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$4.5 Million**

## **Brockton Area Private Industry Council**

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### **Mission and Vision**

Create opportunities for Brockton's youth to reach independence through self empowerment (RISE) while becoming valued members of their community.

### **Program Overview**

The Brockton RISE is an innovative project that has created two Youth Opportunity Centers where services are delivered and activities are provided for youth ages 14 -21. These comprehensive, one-stop centers for youth serve the developmental, job readiness and educational needs of youth living in Brockton. Building on the strengths of the Brockton community, the RISE takes an asset-based approach in providing programs addressing five key areas for the success of youth in Brockton: employment, education, health, skill enhancement and recreation.

### **HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

- Our unique relationship with the state agencies and court system has proven to be effective in reaching out to the youth in the city and has increased communication amongst adults involved with each youth. Our four full time liaisons provide outreach and follow up services at each of these agencies as well as providing case management services to the youth. 175 youth have been recruited into our centers and are receiving services as a result of their efforts at five of our state agencies and the court system in Brockton.
- We have two spacious Youth Opportunity Centers, one focuses on in school youth, the other on out-of school youth. Each exemplifies dynamic youth development culture offering access to a menu of activities that challenge, inspire curiosity and build identity.
- Sixty members will participate in community service learning and peer mediation projects throughout the summer. One enrichment program will allow 30 of our members to teach dance to 120 elementary school youth while they attend remediation courses at their school. Twenty members just completed Phase I of a Peer Mediation program at Northeastern University in Boston on youth against violence and will train their peers.
- Our "RISE STARS" dance troupe comprised of 30 members continues to perform a variety of ethnic dances throughout our community. Have performed at a variety of theatres, colleges, churches, community events, youth development conferences and for local cable television.

### **KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- **Old Colony YMCA:** Outreach workers and YouthBuild program
- **MY TURN, Inc:** Career development, workforce readiness, internships, and employer development
- **St Paul's Episcopal Church:** Provides recreation, office and meeting space rent-free
- **Brockton Alternative School and Champion Charter School:** RISE staff provides on site career development
- **Massachusetts Job Training:** Provides ABE/GED and ESOL instruction and Computer Skills
- **Catholic Charities:** Provides Certified Nurses Aide Instruction
- **Brockton Public Schools:** Offering MCAS remediation and homework assistance